AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims is complete and replaces all prior versions. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. – 8. (Canceled)

9. (Withdrawn – currently amended) An agent for suppressing infection by human parvovirus B19, comprising as an effective ingredient a substance which inhibits binding between ~~said~~ a receptor for human parvovirus B19 wherein said receptor is the receptor defined in claim 15 ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 4~~ and human parvovirus.

10. (Withdrawn – currently amended) The agent for suppressing infection according to claim 9, comprising as an effective ingredient an antibody which undergoes antigen-antibody reaction with ~~said~~ a receptor for human parvovirus B19 wherein said receptor is the receptor defined in claim 15 ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 4~~, or an antigen-binding fragment thereof.

11. (Withdrawn-currently amended) A process for producing a cell which adsorbs human parvovirus B19 or which is sensitive to human parvovirus B19, comprising the step(s) of giving to a cell an ability to express ~~said~~ a receptor for human parvovirus B19 wherein said receptor is the receptor defined in claim 15 ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 4~~, and/or giving to a cell an ability to express B antigen.

12. (Withdrawn – currently amended) A process for producing a cell which adsorbs human parvovirus B19 or which is sensitive to human parvovirus B19, comprising the steps of isolating a cell from a cell population, which expresses ~~said~~ a receptor for human parvovirus B19 wherein said receptor is the receptor defined in claim 15 ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 4~~, and isolating a cell from the cell population, that expresses P antigen.

13. (Withdrawn – currently amended) A process for producing a cell which adsorbs human parvovirus B19 or which is sensitive to human parvovirus B19, comprising the step of isolating a cell from a cell population, which presents ~~said~~ a receptor for human parvovirus B19 wherein said receptor is the receptor defined in claim 15. ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 4.~~

14. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 13, further comprising the step of isolating a cell from a cell population, which presents P antigen.

15. (New) A method for binding human parvovirus B19 comprising:

bringing a receptor for human parvovirus B19 into contact with human parvovirus B19;

wherein said receptor consists essentially of a protein having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, or a protein having an amino acid sequence having a homology of not less than 90% with the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

16. (New) A method for measuring human parvovirus B19 comprising the step of:

binding a receptor for human parvovirus B19 and human parvovirus B19;

wherein said receptor consists essentially of a protein having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, or a protein having an amino acid sequence having a homology of not less than 90% with the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

17. (New) The method according to claim 16, comprising the steps of:

immobilizing said receptor or said protein on a solid phase;

bringing a sample containing B19 into contact with said immobilized receptor or protein;

reacting the resultant with an anti-B19 antibody or an antigen-binding fragment thereof, labeled with a marker after washing; and

measuring the marker bound to the solid phase after washing.

18. (New) A method for adsorbing human parvovirus B19 comprising:

bringing human parvovirus B19 in a sample into contact with immobilized receptor for human parvovirus B19;

wherein said receptor consists essentially of a protein having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, or a protein having an amino acid sequence having a homology of not less than 90% with the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

19. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein said receptor or said protein is immobilized on a filter or a carrier packed in a column, and a sample containing human parvovirus B19 is passed through said filter or column.

20. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein said receptor consists essentially of a protein having a homology of not less than 95% with the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

21. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein said receptor consists essentially of a protein having a homology of not less than 95% with the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

22. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein said receptor consists essentially of a protein having a homology of not less than 95% with the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

23. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein said receptor consists essentially of a protein having a homology of not less than 90% with the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein the amino acid substitutions are accomplished by substitution of an amino acid with an amino acid from the same Group, wherein the Groups consist of:

Group 1: Gly Ile, Val, Leu, Ala, Met, Pro;

Group 2: Asn, Gln, Thr, Ser, Tyr, Cys;

Group 3: Asp, Glu;

Group 4: Arg, Lys, His; and

Group 5: Phe, Tyr, Trp.

24. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein said receptor consists essentially of a protein having a homology of not less than 90% with the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein the amino acid substitutions are accomplished by substitution of an amino acid with an amino acid from the same Group, wherein the Groups consist of:

Group 1: Gly Ile, Val, Leu, Ala, Met, Pro;

Group 2: Asn, Gln, Thr, Ser, Tyr, Cys;

Group 3: Asp, Glu;

Group 4: Arg, Lys, His; and

Group 5: Phe, Tyr, Trp.

25. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein said receptor consists essentially of a protein having a homology of not less than 90% with the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein the amino acid substitutions are accomplished by substitution of an amino acid with an amino acid from the same Group, wherein the Groups consist of:

Group 1: Gly Ile, Val, Leu, Ala, Met, Pro;

Group 2: Asn, Gln, Thr, Ser, Tyr, Cys;

Group 3: Asp, Glu;

Group 4: Arg, Lys, His; and

Group 5: Phe, Tyr, Trp.

26. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein said receptor consists essentially of a protein having a homology of not less than 95% with the amino acid sequence shown in

SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein the amino acid substitutions are accomplished by substitution of an amino acid with an amino acid from the same Group, wherein the Groups consist of:

Group 1: Gly Ile, Val, Leu, Ala, Met, Pro;

Group 2: Asn, Gln, Thr, Ser, Tyr, Cys;

Group 3: Asp, Glu;

Group 4: Arg, Lys, His; and

Group 5: Phe, Tyr, Trp.

27. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein said receptor consists essentially of a protein having a homology of not less than 95% with the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein the amino acid substitutions are accomplished by substitution of an amino acid with an amino acid from the same Group, wherein the Groups consist of:

Group 1: Gly Ile, Val, Leu, Ala, Met, Pro;

Group 2: Asn, Gln, Thr, Ser, Tyr, Cys;

Group 3: Asp, Glu;

Group 4: Arg, Lys, His; and

Group 5: Phe, Tyr, Trp.

28. (New) The method according to claim 18, wherein said receptor consists essentially of a protein having a homology of not less than 95% with the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein the amino acid substitutions are accomplished by substitution of an amino acid with an amino acid from the same Group, wherein the Groups consist of:

Group 1: Gly Ile, Val, Leu, Ala, Met, Pro;

Group 2: Asn, Gln, Thr, Ser, Tyr, Cys;

Group 3: Asp, Glu;

Group 4: Arg, Lys, His; and

Group 5: Phe, Tyr, Trp.